

#3/A  
3-2-6-01

PATENT APPLICATION  
Attorney Docket No. 2204-002205

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application :  
  
**Kaoru SUGITA,** :  
**Yoshihiro TAJIMA,** :  
**Masayuki YASUDA,** :  
**Tetsuo ISHIKAWA,** :  
**Masahide HAMADA** :  
**and Yoshiki MATSUZAKI** :  
  
Serial No. Not Yet Assigned :  
  
Filed Concurrently Herewith :  
  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
  
January 9, 2001

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 6, line 27, delete "at" (second occurrence).

Page 8, line 18, change "is" to read --it--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend claims 7, 9 and 10 and add new claims 11-16 as follows: